

Week Ending Friday, November 15, 2002

Proclamation 7625—World Freedom Day, 2002

November 8, 2002

By the President of the United States of America

A Proclamation

On World Freedom Day, the United States joins with the nations of the world that are dedicated to liberty and democratic values in commemorating the fall of the Berlin Wall, which occurred on November 9, 1989. As we remember this historic event, we renew our commitment to advancing democracy, peace, and freedom for all throughout the world.

The fall of the Berlin Wall ushered in a new era of liberty and self-determination in Central and Eastern Europe. In the years that followed this remarkable event, the citizens of formerly Communist states participated in open elections, secured their common rights to free speech, and claimed other fundamental freedoms. This triumph for democracy demonstrated that tyranny is temporary, and that liberty is the universal and guiding goal for all mankind.

Since the fall of the Berlin Wall, we have made great progress in encouraging free and open societies on every continent. But challenges remain. Today, too many people still suffer at the hands of dictators who deny liberty and support activities and organizations that aim to disrupt the freedom of other countries.

On World Freedom Day, we celebrate freedom and its capacity to improve lives around the world. We also honor the people of the former Soviet bloc countries who fought against tyranny, and we recognize those who continue the struggle for freedom worldwide. As we face new challenges and welcome new opportunities, we remain committed to protecting our freedom and helping others realize their dreams of liberty.

Now, Therefore, I, George W. Bush, President of the United States of America, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the United States, do hereby proclaim November 9, 2002, as World Freedom Day. I call upon the people of the United States to observe this day with appropriate ceremonies and activities and to reaffirm their dedication to freedom and democracy for all.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand this eighth day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand two, and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred and twenty-seventh.

George W. Bush

[Filed with the Office of the Federal Register, 8:45 a.m., November 13, 2002]

NOTE: This proclamation was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 9, and it was published in the *Federal Register* on November 14.

The President's Radio Address

November 9, 2002

Good morning. This was an important week for our country and for the world. The United Nations Security Council voted for a resolution requiring the Iraqi regime to declare and destroy all weapons of mass destruction or face the consequences. Here at home, our citizens voted in an election I believe will strengthen our ability to get things done for the American people.

With the United Nations Security Council resolution passed yesterday, the world has now come together to say that the outlaw regime in Iraq will not be permitted to build or possess chemical, biological, or nuclear weapons. That is the judgment of the United Nations Security Council. That is the judgment of the United States Congress. And my

administration will see to it that the world's judgment is enforced.

The resolution presents the Iraqi regime with a test, a final test. Iraq must now, without delay or negotiations, give up its weapons of mass destruction, welcome full inspections, and fundamentally change the approach it has taken for more than a decade. The regime must allow immediate and unrestricted access to every site, every document, and every person identified by inspectors. Iraq can be certain that the old game of cheat-and-retreat, tolerated at other times, will no longer be tolerated.

Any act of delay or defiance will be an additional breach of Iraq's international obligations and a clear signal that the Iraqi regime has once again abandoned the path of voluntary compliance. If Iraq fails to fully comply with the U.N. resolution, the United States, in coalition with other nations, will disarm Saddam Hussein.

Republicans and Democrats in Congress are strongly supporting our war against terror. As the current Congress returns to Washington this week, I hope we can act in the same spirit of unity to complete some unfinished business.

The single most important item of unfinished business on Capitol Hill is to create a unified Department of Homeland Security that will vastly improve our ability to protect our borders, our coasts, and our communities. The Senate must pass a bill that will strengthen our ability to protect the American people and preserve the authority every President since John Kennedy has had to act in the interests of national security. Congress needs to send me a bill I can sign before it adjourns this year.

We also have a responsibility to strengthen the economy so that people can find jobs. One immediate thing Congress can do to help put people to work is to pass legislation so that construction projects can get insurance against terrorism at a reasonable price. This will spur construction and create thousands of good hardhat jobs that are now on hold because projects without insurance cannot be built.

Congress must also show fiscal discipline as it passes the appropriations bills. At a time when we're at war, at a time when we need

to strengthen our economy, Congress must control wasteful spending while funding the Nation's priorities.

American workers deserve action on these important economic issues. Our economy has come out of a recession and is growing. But I'm not satisfied, because I know we can do better. I want the economy to grow at a faster and stronger pace, so more Americans can find jobs. So I will work with our new Congress to pass a growth-and-jobs package early next year.

Our Nation has important challenges ahead, at home and abroad. And we're determined to build the security and prosperity of America. Thank you for listening.

NOTE: The address was recorded at 9:35 a.m. on November 8 in the Cabinet Room at the White House for broadcast at 10:06 a.m. on November 9. The transcript was made available by the Office of the Press Secretary on November 8 but was embargoed for release until the broadcast. In his remarks, the President referred to President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. The Office of the Press Secretary also released a Spanish language transcript of this address.

Remarks at a White House Reception for Veterans

November 11, 2002

Good morning, and welcome to the White House. Thank you for joining us in observing Veterans Day. On this holiday, the 11th day of the 11th month, Americans reflect on the great sacrifices of military service. And we honor every man and every woman who has accepted those sacrifices.

In Veterans Day gatherings across America, we think first of those who fell and never lived to be called veterans. We remember those whose fate is still undetermined. We look around us to all the veterans and retired members of the military with admiration and with respect.

Especially in this time of war, we see in our veterans an example of courage and selfless sacrifice and service that inspires a new generation and will lead this country to victory. I want to thank Tony Principi and Elizabeth for their service to our country.